
Protect, Connect and Unlock the Natural Potential:

Technical Strategy for Salmonid Conservation and Recovery in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watersheds

(Water Resource Inventory Area 9 and Vashon/Maury Islands)

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Summary

The Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 9 Technical Committee developed this technical strategy to help prioritize initial actions for salmonid conservation and recovery in the Green/Duwamish River watershed and nearshore areas of WRIA 9, including Vashon/Maury Islands. The strategy is based on the current state of knowledge, the ecological principles and habitat limiting factors described in the Habitat Limiting Factors and Reconnaissance Assessment Report (2000), the Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) guidance from NMFS (2000), and emerging information from the WRIA 9 Strategic Assessment. The technical strategy is designed to help focus future actions in the WRIA 9 watershed such as research and studies, habitat preservation, and restoration, rehabilitation and enhancement efforts. This document contains five sections: (1) principles to guide salmon recovery, (2) VSP in WRIA 9, (3) the technical strategy, (4) monitoring and adaptive management, and (5) use of the technical strategy in the WRIA 9 salmon conservation planning process. In addition, information on habitat factors of decline, and subwatershed actions and priorities is presented in the appendix.

The WRIA 9 technical strategy focuses on three high-priority watershed goals to address habitat issues in support of salmon conservation and recovery:

- **Protect currently functioning habitat and habitat forming processes from degradation,** primarily in the Middle Green River subwatershed and the nearshore areas of Vashon/Maury Islands. This will help maintain and support the abundance and productivity of salmonid populations.
- **Connect the Upper Green River subwatershed by restoring access for salmonids** to facilitate efficient and safe passage for adults and juveniles above and below the dams. This will increase the spatial distribution of salmonids and contribute to increased diversity and abundance.
- **Restore/Enhance habitat that contributes to adequate juvenile salmonid survival.** This will be the primary approach in the Lower Green River, Duwamish River and Nearshore subwatersheds to increase productivity and contribute to increased life history diversity.

The WRIA 9 technical strategy for salmon conservation and recovery will be used for three purposes: (1) to support development of the WRIA 9 Habitat Plan, (2) to evaluate and prioritize projects (e.g., for Salmon Recovery Funding Board and King Conservation District funding), and (3) to support development of a research agenda for the Strategic Assessment.